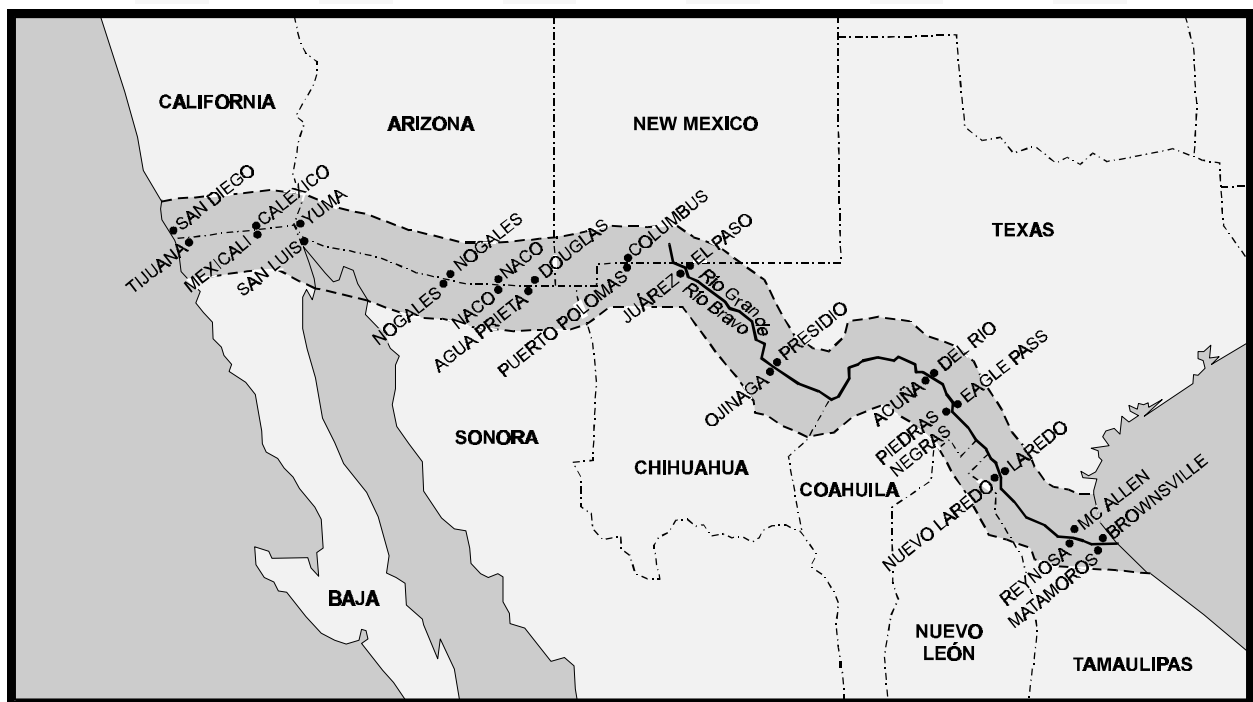




Semiannual Report on United States-Mexico Border Contingency Planning Activities



SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES



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INTRODUCTION

EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) provides leadership, advocacy, and assistance to:

- ➡ Prevent and prepare for chemical emergencies;
- ➡ Respond to environmental crises; and
- ➡ Inform the public about chemical hazards in their community.

To protect human health and the environment, CEPPO develops, implements, and coordinates regulatory and non-regulatory programs. The Office carries out this work in partnership with regions, domestic, and international organizations in the public and private sectors, and the general public.

The purpose of the *Semiannual Report on United States-Mexico Border Contingency Planning Activities* is to consolidate information on United States-Mexico border joint response contingency planning from EPA Regions, border states, and sister cities in order to promote the exchange of information and coordination among these groups. The types of activities presented in this report range from joint response planning meetings and meetings to develop sister city plans to actual joint response exercises and training courses.

Each of the EPA Regions and U.S. states along the United States-Mexico border were contacted for information on recent and future border contingency activities. The information gathered for this first issue of the report serves as the baseline for future updates that will be published twice a year.

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- ➡ Cristina Herrera, Yuma County, Arizona
- ➡ Michael Heimowitz, Chemical Manufacturers Association

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

- ➡ Joint United States-Mexico Inland Contingency Plan (to be signed winter 1997)
(*available from EPA Headquarters*)
- ➡ Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Emergency Response Plan (May 1997) (*available from EPA Region 6*)

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

- ➡ EPA CEPPPO — <http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/>
- ➡ EPA Region 6 Border Program — <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6bo/6bo.htm>
- ➡ Border Information and Solutions Network (BISN) —
<http://www.triplesoft.com/bisn/>
- ➡ Border Environment Cooperation Commission — <http://cocef.interjuarez.com/>
- ➡ Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission — <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/>
- ➡ U.S.-Mexico Border Regional Environmental Information System —
<http://begs1.beg.utexas.edu:8888/>
- ➡ City of Brownsville, Texas — <http://www.ci.brownsville.tx.us/>

SISTER CITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➡ Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas | ➡ Columbus, New Mexico-Puerto Palomas, Chihuahua |
| ➡ McAllen, Texas-Reynosa, Tamaulipas | ➡ Douglas, Arizona-Agua Prieta, Sonora |
| ➡ Laredo, Texas-Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas | ➡ Naco, Arizona-Naco, Sonora |
| ➡ Eagle Pass, Texas-Piedras Negras, Coahuila | ➡ Nogales, Arizona-Nogales, Sonora |
| ➡ Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila | ➡ Yuma, Arizona-San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora |
| ➡ Presidio, Texas-Ojinaga, Chihuahua | ➡ Calexico, California-Mexicali, Baja California |
| ➡ El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua | ➡ San Diego, California-Tijuana, Ensenada, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito, Baja California |
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Official signing of the Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Plan. Left to right: Fendol Chiles (EPA Region 6), Mayor Henry Gonzalez (City of Brownsville), President Ramon Sampayo (Municipality of Matamoros), and David Hanawa (Ambiotec). Back row: Commissioner Ernie Hernandez.
Photo courtesy of BISN and the City of Brownsville.

STATUS OF SISTER CITY PLANS

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| Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas | Signed on May 6, 1997. Title: <i>Cross Border Contingency Plan— U.S./Mexico — Brownsville/Matamoros.</i> |
| Laredo, Texas-Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas; Eagle Pass, Texas- Piedras Negras, Coahuila; Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila; El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua | One of these plans possibly will be finished in January-March 1998. |
| Columbus, New Mexico-Puerto Palomas, Chihuahua | No sister city plan expected because border towns are so small. Las Cruces, New Mexico, however, has received a \$90,000 grant, some of which may be spent on border response activities. |
| Douglas, Arizona-Agua Prieta, Sonora | Have an agreement concerning emergency response, but it is not legally binding and has not facilitated emergency response equipment crossing the border. |
| Naco, Arizona-Naco, Sonora | Cochise County Government currently has no plans to enter into an agreement with Naco, Sonora. (Naco, Arizona, is an unincorporated townsite of Cochise County.) |
| Yuma, Arizona-San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora | February 1995 draft (not signed). Title: <i>U.S.- Mexico Sister Cities—Yuma, Arizona-San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora—Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plan.</i> |
| Calexico, California-Mexicali, Baja California | Have developed two mutual aid agreements. The first in September 1993, entitled <i>City of Calexico- City of Mexicali Mutual Aid Agreement</i> . The second in February 1996, entitled <i>United States/Mexico—Imperial County/Ayuntamiento de Mexicali, B.C.—Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement.</i> |
| San Diego, California-Tijuana, Ensenada, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito, Baja California | The Sister Cities have developed a communication plan for San Diego and Imperial Counties in the U.S. and Baja California in Mexico. |

CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES



Classroom Training



Emergency Response Exercises



Joint Response Exercises

RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Presented in Chronological Order (Presented by State in the Next Table)

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|------------------------|--|
| ➡ 1996 | California Through EPA and DOT grants, California developed a database of HazMat information (chemical, quantity, storage location) that covered San Diego County and Imperial County, California; Tijuana, Mexicali; and Tecate, Baja California. |
| ➡ November 1996 | Nogales, Sonora Course on HazMat transportation and contingency response offered for Mexican maquiladoras. Organized by the Southwest Conference on Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP), a group comprised of five U.S. and five Mexican educational institutions, and funded through an EPA grant. |
| ➡ February 1997 | Del Rio, Texas Del Rio and TNRCC presented a 16-hour emergency planning and emergency response workshop to local authorities. |
| ➡ February 1997 | Brownsville, Texas Liquefied petroleum gas tank truck crashes and turns over. Joint response by Brownsville Fire Department and CODE 3 Inc. |
| ➡ February 24-28, 1997 | San Luis, Sonora Five-day workshop on HazMat activities (transportation and contingency response) for U.S. and Mexican officials. Included a joint exercise of a mock spill at a maquiladora that required SCBA response. Organized by SCERP through an EPA grant. |
| ➡ March-May 1997 | Imperial County and San Diego County, California Training of law enforcement officials (over 200 U.S. and a few from Mexico) on incident commander and first responder awareness that included HazMat issues such as the smuggling of aviation gas, Freon trade, and illegal waste disposal. |
| ➡ March 17, 1997 | Tucson, Arizona Presentation titled "Chemical Emergency Service Capabilities and Constraints Along the U.S.-Mexico Border" by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (funded through an EPA grant). Attended by Arizona and Sonora officials. |

RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

- ➡ **April 5, 1997** **Calexico-Imperial County, California** Exercise hosted by Calexico-Imperial County (California) Fire Department with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Mexicali, Baja California, participation. Scenario—trucks collide at the port of entry carrying sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide.
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- ➡ **May 6, 1997** **Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas** Signing of the Brownsville-Matamoros sister city emergency response plan.
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- ➡ **May 14-15, 1997** **Veracruz, Mexico** United States-Mexico Joint Response Team annual meeting. Topics covered included revisions to the United States-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan, the translation of Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO®) into Spanish, sister city training/assistance, and development of goals in the context of the Government Performance and Results Act and Border XXI.
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- ➡ **May 27-30, 1997** **Matamoros, Tamaulipas** Border XXI United States-Mexico National Coordinators annual meeting.



The two-year workplan for the Joint Response Team was finalized, the Environmental Indicators document was drafted, and general accomplishments were reported. Also, an award was presented for completion of the Brownsville-Matamoros sister city plan.

Recognition of the Brownsville-Matamoros Sister City Plan of the Border XXI meeting.

Left to right: Eduardo Jimenez (PROFEPA), Jim Makris (EPA CEPPO), Dr. Miguel Trenino (Quimica Fluor), Jackie Lockett (BISN), David Hanawa (Ambiotec), and Fendol Chiles (EPA Region 6). Photo courtesy of BISN and the City of Brownsville.

RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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| ➡ | June 1997 | Arizona Through an EPA grant, Arizona completed the "Arizona Toxics Information" database. The database combines the U.S. and Mexican lists of hazardous materials and is primarily used for contamination issues and land use planning. |
| ➡ | June 11-13, 1997 | Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Laredo, Texas Emergency response/contingency planning meetings that included LEPCs, TNRCC, and EPA Region 6. CAMEO® presentation. Hosted by TNRCC with Ambiotec as contractor. |
| ➡ | August 1997 | Raymondville, Texas International exercise hosted by Química Fluor of Matamoros. United States and CODE 3 Inc. responded. Scenario—train derailment and hydrofluoric acid release. |
| ➡ | August 1997 | Acuña, Coahuila Training on "first responder awareness" provided for Mexican responders by Eagle Pass (Texas) Fire Department. |
| ➡ | August 1997 | Nogales (Rio Rico), Arizona and Nogales, Sonora Meeting of U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials concerning HazMat transportation and contingencies. Hosted by Arizona. |
| ➡ | August 1997 | Nogales, Arizona Arizona Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Task Force meeting held on HazMat issues along the border. Part of the Western States Project, which is funded through EPA. Included federal, state, and local representatives from the United States and Mexico (including EPA). |
| ➡ | September 18, 1997 | Laredo, Texas Planning meeting for the cross-border emergency response drill to be held December 11, 1997, in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. The Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) in the United States and its equivalent in Mexico (ANIQ) initiated the idea for this exercise. |

RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

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| ➡ | October 22-23, 1997 | Nogales, Arizona SCERP workshops on HazMat transportation and contingency response for local authorities. |
| ➡ | November 1997 | Laredo, Texas Final planning meeting for the cross-border emergency response drill to be held December 11, 1997, in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. |
| ➡ | November 1997 | McAllen, Texas For the county where McAllen is located (Hidalgo County), EPA Region 6 conducted a commodity flow study that will be used in developing the sister city plan for transportation of hazardous materials across the border. The information compiled also aids in selecting scenarios for spill exercises and conducting the risk analysis for the surrounding communities. |
| ➡ | November 22, 1997 | Brownsville, Texas- Matamoros, Tamaulipas International exercise held under the name "Amigo 5." Scenario—truck with HazMat overturns. |
| ➡ | December 1997 | Eagle Pass, Texas International exercise. Unknown scenario. |
| ➡ | December 8, 1997 | Nogales, Arizona SCERP workshops on HazMat transportation and contingency response for local authorities. |
| ➡ | December 11, 1997 | Laredo, Texas-Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Cross-border emergency response drill involving numerous U.S. and Mexican agencies/organizations. Scenario—truck collision and HazMat release that affects both the United States and Mexico. |

RECENT UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Presented by State (Presented in Chronological Order in Previous Table)



Texas



- 16-hour emergency planning and response workshop (Del Rio; February 1997)
 - Joint response to crash of liquified petroleum gas tank truck (Brownsville; February 1997)
 - Signing of the Brownsville-Matamoros sister city emergency response plan (Brownsville; May 6, 1997)
 - Border XXI United States-Mexico National Coordinators annual meeting (Matamoros; May 27-30, 1997)
 - Emergency response/contingency planning meetings (Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Laredo; June 11-13, 1997)
 - International exercise hosted by Química Fluor (Raymondville; August 1997)
 - Training on first responder awareness (Acuña; August 1997)
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Arizona



- Course on HazMat transportation and contingency response by SCERP (Nogales; November 1996)
 - Five-day workshop on HazMat activities (February 24-28, 1997)
 - Presentation on border emergency service capabilities (Tucson; March 17, 1997)
 - Completion of the "Arizona Toxics Information" database (June 1997)
 - Meeting of law enforcement officials (Nogales; August 1997)
 - Attorney General's meeting on HazMat border issues (Nogales; August 1997)
 - Planning meeting for December 11, 1997, exercise (Laredo; September 18, 1997)
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California



- Developed HazMat database (1996)
 - Training of law enforcement officials (San Diego; March-May 1997)
 - Exercise involving truck collision at port of entry (San Diego; April 5, 1997)
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Other Locations

- United States-Mexico Joint Response Team annual meeting (Veracruz, Mexico; May 14-15, 1997)
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FUTURE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONTINGENCY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

(All Activities are Tentative)

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|---|--------------------|---|
| ➡ | 1998 | Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua; Mexicali, Baja California; Tijuana, Baja California SCERP expects to hold workshops on HazMat transportation and contingency response. |
| ➡ | January-March 1998 | Laredo, Texas; Del Rio, Texas; Eagle Pass, Texas; El Paso, Texas EPA Region 6 expects that at least one of these four sister city plans will be finished. |
| ➡ | January 1998 | El Paso, Texas For the county where El Paso is located (El Paso County), EPA Region 6 will conduct a commodity flow study. |
| ➡ | February 1998 | Laredo, Texas-Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas International exercise scheduled. Probable scenario—truck collision and HazMat release into river that supplies drinking water. The LEPC will conduct the exercise with EPA Region 6 participation. |
| ➡ | February 1998 | Puerto Vallarta, Mexico North American Responsible Care Distribution Code Conference to be held by CMA. Emergency response along the United States-Mexico and United States-Canada borders to be a key item on the agenda. |
| ➡ | March 16-19, 1998 | San Diego, California United States-Mexico National Coordinators meeting. |
| ➡ | June 1998 | Del Rio, Texas For the county where Del Rio is located (Val Verde County), EPA Region 6 will conduct a commodity flow study. |
| ➡ | June 1998 | Laredo, Texas For the county where Laredo is located (Webb County), EPA Region 6 will conduct a commodity flow study. |
| ➡ | September 1998 | El Paso, Texas United States-Mexico Joint Response Team meeting. |